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East Texas

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EAST TEXAS

BY THE EDITOR

The Panola County Historical Society has acquired the old city jail, built in 1891, to house the Society's historical collection.

The Society has a number of antique jail cells for sale, and would be glad to hear from a prospective buyer.

Miss Marjorie Neal, the first woman state senator in the United States, is chairman of the Board of the Historical Society, and Travis Williamson, Dean of Panola College, is the President.

The Hunt County Historical Society is currently headed by the Honorable Fletcher Warren, former Ambassador to Turkey and various Latin American nations. President Warren is a native of Hunt County. Under his leadership and program direction the interest and membership of the Society is at its highest.

Serving as vice president is General Hal C. Horton, one of the original incorporators when the charter was issued to the Society in 1923.

Other officers are Mrs. Ed. M. Jones, recording secretary; Mrs. Norine P. Morris, treasurer; Miss Elizabeth Burnett, corresponding secretary; Mrs. R. L. Jones, reporter; W. Walworth Harrison, curator.

Present projects of the Society include marking of historic spots and buildings. Among these is the grave of William Lane, the first Anglo-American born in what is now Hunt County. The Society also looks forward to the possible completion and publication in 1965 of the History of Hunt County.

A major project begun in 1957, while W. Walworth Harrison was president, was the restoration of the Ende-Gaillard Home, the oldest building in Greenville. Erected in 1859 by Fred von Elde, a young merchant, as a new home for his bride from New Orleans, the cypress siding and other material for the building were hauled to Greenville from Jefferson by ox teams. The architecture of the old home is an excellent example of the period, with side-lights around both the front and back doors. This building was saved from destruction by the Hunt County Historical Society.

The Ende-Gaillard Home, located in a Greenville park, houses a small museum, which displays some interesting archives and objects connected with Hunt County's early history.

Dr. R. L. Jones, of the History Department of East Texas State College, has made one of the most valuable contributions in local historical material. While serving the Society as president from 1961 to 1963, he discovered what are known as the Alfred Howell letters. These letters

were written by Alfred Thomas Howell, a young lawyer from Greenville in the period from 1853 to 1866 describing his efforts to establish himself in his profession in the village of Greenville. Dr. Jones found the letters in the library of the University of Tennessee and brought microfilms of the complete set, numbering about 500 letters, to the East Texas State College Library.

Later, under Dr. Jones' direction, Dr. William E. Sawyer, of the East Texas State College History Department, edited the letters and prepared them for publication in narrative form. Professor Sawyer published an article on Howell in Volume I of the *East Texas Historical Journal*.

Two others who have served the Society as president in recent years are Dr. Jesse Guy Smith also of the East Texas State College History Department, and author of "Heroes of the Saddlebags," and General Hal C. Horton, descendant of a pioneer Hunt County family, officer in both World Wars and one of the leading students of Texas history in the area.

Now in its sixth year, the Smith County Historical Society and Historical Survey Committee, has over 130 members, and is one of the few county groups regularly publishing material on local history.

The Society's magazine, *Chronicles of Smith County*, is issued semi-annually, and has included such varied research articles as "The Neches Saline," "Railroading in Smith County," "When World War II Came to Tyler," and the photos and histories of twenty old homes in the county. Other issues have carried the 1850 Heads of Households for Smith County; Civil War letter reprints; and book reviews.

The Fall 1964 issue will contain the history of the several courthouse buildings that have served the county, as well as material on money (or script) issued in Smith County. Every issue carries a reprint of a rare item, such as an early newspaper or city ordinance.

Regular monthly meetings are held by the Society, usually in the ante-bellum city-owned Goodman House in Tyler. The Society's free Museum Collection is located in this lovely structure, and over 1,000 persons each month view the many fine exhibits. Highlights of the displays are the original Confederate battleflags, Indian skeletons excavated in East Texas, and the Camp Ford horn, carved by a Union soldier at the Confederate Prison in Tyler. This elaborately carved and decorated steer's horn is the only known artifact from the old prison.

Recent programs heard by the Society at its monthly meetings have been: "Indian Trails in Smith County," "History of Tyler Street Names," "East Texas Scrapbook"—slide presentation of historical sites for week-enders, "How Early Texans Acquired Their Land," and "A Kentucky Mother's Pre-Civil War Letters to her Texas Lawyer Son." One meeting was a field trip to Roseland Farms, two ante-bellum homes restored by Mrs. W. C. Windsor.

A growing Archives Collection is being assembled, catalogued and prepared for microfilming. With the Society's cooperation and support, the local City Library has acquired a microfilm reader and numerous film

rolls have been purchased and donated by the Society. Included in these gifts have been all Smith County Census rolls, the Texas Almanac, and films of all pre-1900 Tyler newspapers.

The printed material in the Archives includes the Goodman, Woldert, Wood, and Douglas Collections, plus several others. An example of this material is the "Woldert Manuscript," hundreds of pages of original research notes on Tyler, Smith County, and East Texas, compiled over a lifetime by Will A. Woldert, pioneer surveyor and historian.

The work of the Society in 1964 has been directed by James Wilkins, President; Bill McCorkle, Vice-President; Mrs. C. E. Parker, Secretary; Paul Lutz, Treasurer; and Virgil Martin, Museum Director-at-Large. Lee Lawrence serves as Local/State Coordinator and Jack Greer is Program Coordinator.

Committee Chairmen are: Publication, Miss Mary K. Haynes; Historic Buildings & Homes, Mrs. Elsie Wills; Archives, Howard Pollan; and Museum, Bill McCorkle.

The Shelby County Historical Society has secured an outside marker for the site of the first court house in the county which was in Shelbyville. Shelbyville was the home of Sydney Pennington, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence. Pennington is buried in Shelbyville. Shelbyville was the headquarters for the "Regulator-Moderator War," and has served as a place where troops were organized for the Republic of Texas Army, for the Mexican War, and for the Confederacy.

A large sign designates the site of the "Old Texan Cemetery" where Captain John M. Bradley is buried. Captain Bradley won distinction at the Battle of San Antonio, and later was murdered by Charles Walt Moorman, the leader of the Regulators.

The Society has also placed a marker at the Old John Buckley Cemetery, one of the oldest cemeteries in Texas. John Buckley was listed as a citizen of Shelby County in the first Texas census.

Medallions have been secured for the Eva Taylor Lane home at Center; the Still pioneer log home at Myriek's Ferry on the Sabine River in the Huxly Community; the Shelby County Court House which was built in 1885; the Methodist Church located in the McClelland Community; and the Methodist Church in Shelbyville.

Brazos County Historical Survey Committee was reconstituted in January, 1963. Its first task was to find out what historical items pertaining to the County had been preserved and if such items were accessible for the public use. It was soon evident that the history of the County was not in publication, though most of the County records have been preserved. Newspaper files are skimpy or non-existent for the first sixty years of the County's history. Surprisingly there is a paucity of primary ma-

terial relating to the Civil War and reconstruction. If letters, diaries, or newspapers now exist in the County, which contain information about this period of "the war and reconstruction," they have not yet been made available to the researcher.

On October 20, 1963, the Millican Confederate Information marker was dedicated with Judge W. T. McDonald of the Court of Criminal Appeals as guest speaker. Plans have been made for the publication of a county map which would show some of the better known landmarks of the county before 1860. A second project is the preparation of a pamphlet or folder containing historical, geographical, and economic information about Brazos County.

A group from Rusk County has petitioned the State of Texas for a charter for the Rusk County Heritage Association. The organizational meeting was held Tuesday, April 28, 1964, with Paul Howard as temporary chairman.

In a second meeting, Tuesday, May 5, sixteen members were elected to the board of directors: Sam Ross, Mrs. Carl Jagers, Paul Howard, Mrs. Norris Langford, Mrs. Gene Lasseter, Tom Perryman, Charles Langford, Donald Leverett, Miss Virginia Knapp, Mrs. Doris Bolt, Mrs. Kathleen Cannon, Mrs. Davis McMahon, Mrs. Gordon Brown, Fred Hale, Miss Mary Craig, and Mrs. A. E. Morris.

On Friday, May 29, the Board of Directors convened to select officers and Charles Langford was elected president; Sam Ross, vice-president; Mrs. Mary Frank Dunn, secretary; and Miss Virginia Knapp, treasurer.

Preservation of the ante-bellum Howard home, one of two such homes left standing in Henderson, is the immediate goal of the Association. The home, mentioned in some records as the Howard-Dickinson House, is owned by Homer Bryce, Henderson business man, who has offered to give the house and a 151x155 foot lot on South Main Street to the non-profit organization.

To publicize the project, two students of Henderson High School, Gay Poovey and Arthur Rosseau, and their sponsor, Mrs. Doris Bolt, have presented to Henderson civic clubs a thirty-minute history of the Howard home which they prepared from letters in the Bryce collection. The letters include correspondence with one of the survivors of the builders. The students pointed out that the wife of one of the brothers, who built and lived in the house, was a first cousin of Sam Houston, and Houston was a frequent visitor in the home.

The century old house, situated two blocks from the main square of Henderson, was built of brick and steel by the Howard brothers who were early contractors and brick makers of Rusk County. The house has not been occupied in fourteen years, and has suffered neglect and abuse.

The walls, foundation floors, and chimneys of the structure are sound, and, although the roof has a large hole in it, engineers and architects have given assurance that the house can be made beautiful again.

To further publicize the project, two members of the Rusk County Historical Survey Committee, a group acting under the State Historical Commission, presented to the public a program of colored slides showing the old houses of the county and the heritage that could be found in them. Two local historians, Mrs. Gordon Brown, and Mrs. Mary Frank Dunn, have aroused interest in the old homes of Rusk County, particularly since the Arnold home on North High Street in Henderson was torn down, after the last surviving descendant of the family gave the house to the city to raise funds for a memorial to her parents.

Future plans of the Rusk County Heritage Association include: "Save the Howard House," restoration of the Lowe home at Glen Fawn, and establishment of a county museum, and historical tours.

A map has been published by the Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club of Jefferson and distributed in Jefferson at the Excelsior House, the Chamber of Commerce, and at service stations. It is self-explanatory and shows forty historical medallion structures, more than any other town in the state.

A Children of the American Revolution Chapter was organized in Jefferson on June 6, 1964. The scene of the organization was the historic Cypress River Steamboat Turn Basin. Mrs. A. K. Payne, Regent of the Martha McCraw Chapter D.A.R., organized the local Chapter. The Chapter was honored to have present at the organization, Miss Alice Naomi Wilson, of the James Haymes Society of Dallas, Texas State President, C.A.R., her mother, Mrs. Joseph M. Wilson, the Senior Second Vice President, C.A.R., who presented program material and a guest book to record the charter meeting and other events. Mrs. Cornelia Alexander Duer, Senior Flag Chairman of the James Haymes Society, C.A.R. of Dallas, was also in attendance.

The Martha McCraw Chapter, D.A.R., held an impressive dedication ceremony at the historic Bonhams Landing Sunday, June 14, 1964. The occasion, in addition to Flag Day, was the placing of a D.A.R. Marker at the Rives Cemetery, the oldest cemetery in Marion County. Mrs. Jessie DeWare III, Historian, Texas Society D.A.R., spoke on the historic significance of this section of the Texas-Louisiana border. She also gave the background and the prominent part that John Green Rives, a pioneer settler who came to Texas in 1832 and carved a plantation out of the wilderness, played in its development. John Green Rives, born in 1795, was buried in this cemetery, and his grave is reported to be the first white man's grave in this section.

WASHCO / IDEAS

ONE OF THE OLDEST TOWNS IN TEXAS



The Texas State Historical Survey Committee has awarded this Medallion to each of the forty Homes, Churches and Structures listed below, as worthy of preservation because of Historical and Architectural significance.

1. T. J. TAYLOR, JR. HOME
2. FREEMAN PLANTATION
3. THE MAGNOLIAS
4. SAGAMORE
5. J. M. DeWARE, JR. HOME
6. SIGHTSWORTH
7. GUARDING AOK
8. GEORGE KEES HOME
9. S. P. LACY STORE AND COUNTRY STORE
10. OLD ROWELL HOUSE
11. HOUSE OF THE SEASONS
12. FALLING LEAVES
13. CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
14. THE HOMESTEAD
15. THE MANSE
16. JOE McCASLAND HOME
17. MARY CARLSON HOME
18. PERRY M. WOOLFE HOME
19. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
20. DOYLE BOWER HOME
21. J. H. BENNETT HOME
22. METHODIST CHURCH
23. MRS. RUTH SEDBERRY HOME
24. CARRIE LIBRARY AND JEFFERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM
25. EXCELSIOR HOUSE
26. OLD ROSEBUD SALOON
27. OLD FEDERAL BUILDING
28. IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
29. P. S. TERRY HOME
30. BEARD HOUSE
31. MRS. H. C. BROWN, SR. BUSINESS BUILDING
32. J. H. HIGGARD CHURCH
33. OLD RED RIVER WAREHOUSE COMPANY
34. OLD PLANTERS BANK BUILDING
35. ST. LOUIS COMMISSION WAREHOUSE AND OFFICES
36. S. & TERRY HOME
37. GEORGE E. HAGGARD FUNERAL HOME
38. OLD SINGLETON HOUSE
39. JUDAS S. W. FORELEY HOME
40. BLUEBONNET FARM

An exhibit of items used in Texas before 1900 was staged in the Old Nacogdoches University Building in Nacogdoches during June by the Stone Fort Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, headed by Mrs. W. C. Fouts.

Admission was charged for the exhibits and several hundred dollars were added to the restoration fund for the old building.

Exhibit items ranged from a money box used by Charles S. Taylor of Nacogdoches, one of the signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence, to a bed used in the home of S. M. Orton, one of Nacogdoches' early sheriffs.

Restoration of the old building, which is under the supervision of Mrs. Stephen B. Tucker of Nacogdoches, is the pet project of the D.R.T. and several other women's organizations.

The restoration is about two-thirds complete. Needed are light fixtures, finishing of woodwork upstairs, and furnishing.

A number of items were given to the building during the Texana Exhibit and since that time. Some of these pieces are authentic colonial period pieces and form the nucleus of a collection which will depict early Texas.

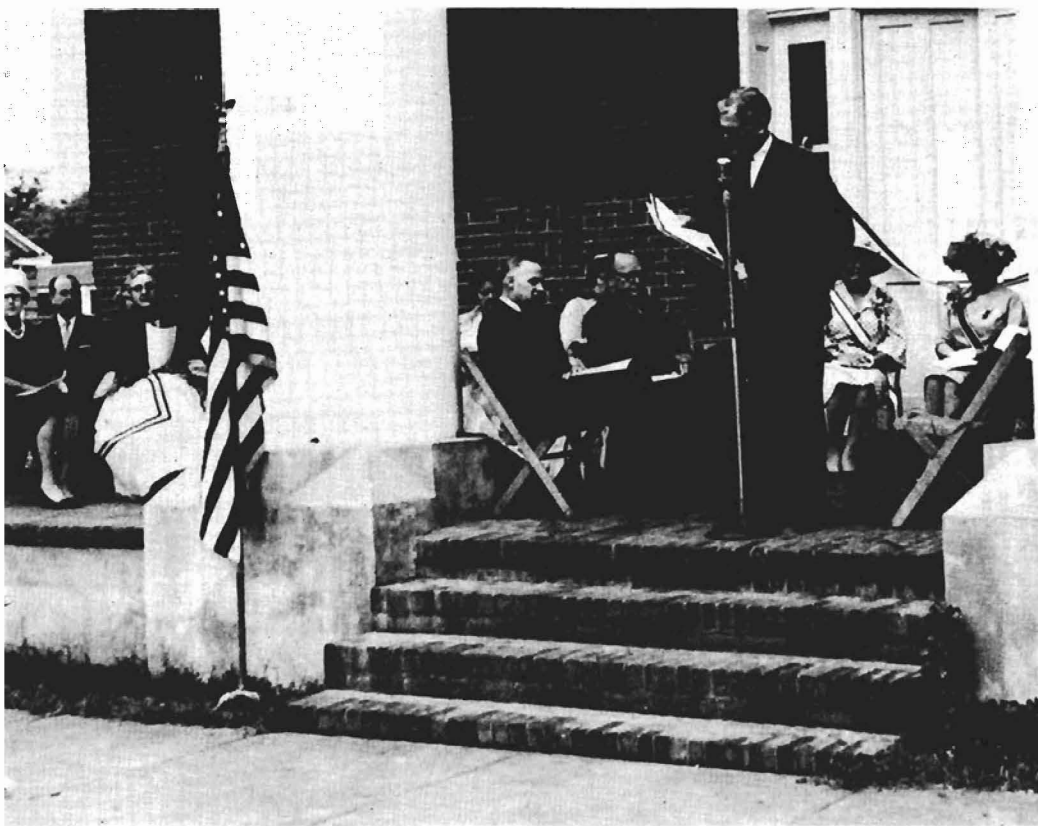
Herbert O. Wilson is president of the Nacogdoches Historical Commission which holds the old building in trusteeship from the Nacogdoches Independent School District.

The Texana Exhibit was the most ambitious undertaking for the old building in the way of activities using it, but Mrs. Tucker reports that it is available for meetings, socials, and other functions of local clubs and organizations.

Plans for raising additional money to continue restoration of the building will be discussed in a September meeting of the commission. About \$20,000 has been spent on the building.



Dr. Ralph W. Steen, president of the Stephen F. Austin State College and one of the state's outstanding historians, made the principal address for the opening of the Texana Exhibit in the Old Nacogdoches University. The display was sponsored during June by the Stone Fort Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.



Mayor M. M. Stripling welcomed guests at the opening of the Texana Exhibit sponsored during June in the Old Nacogdoches University Building by the Stone Fort Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. With Mr. Stripling on the porch of the old building are other participants in the opening day program.



The Old Nacogdoches University building was completed in January, 1859. It is located on the Nacogdoches High School campus and is now being restored.



The Old Stone Fort was built in the 1770's in what is now downtown Nacogdoches. The original building was torn down in 1901. The above replica was built by the State of Texas in 1936 and is located on the Stephen F. Austin State College campus.

The spring meeting of the East Texas Historical Association was held on the campus of Sam Houston State College on March 21, 1964.

Dr. J. T. Clark of Sam Houston State College was general program chairman, and presided at the 10:15 meeting. Dr. Elliott T. Bowers, Acting President of Sam Houston State College, welcomed the Association to the campus. Three papers were read at the morning session: "Dudley C. Sharp: Secretary of the Air Force," by Robert C. Cotner of the University of Texas; "I Visit with a Nonagenarian," by Martha Anne Turner of Sam Houston State College; and "Texas Lumber Barons—Newcomers and Natives," by Robert S. Maxwell of Stephen F. Austin State College.

President F. I. Tucker, of Nacogdoches, presided over the luncheon at which Ben F. Proctor of Texas Christian University read a paper, "John H. Reagan and His Fight for a Democratic State." A business session followed.

A tour of the Sam Houston Memorial Museum, which is located across the street from the college campus, began at two o'clock.

The annual meeting of the East Texas Historical Association will be held at the College Center on the Stephen F. Austin College campus, October 10, 1964. The meeting will begin at nine o'clock in the morning.